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## THE CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION FUND.

This fund owes its origin to one of the Fellows, Dr. Benjamin E. Cotting, who, at a meeting of the academic council, presented one thousand dollars as the first subscription. The Centennial Committee, having authority from the Academy to solicit subscriptions, appointed a Sub-Committee on a Centennial Publication Fund, consisting of J. Ingersoll Bowditch, William B. Rogers, John A. Lowell, Nathaniel Thayer, H. H. Hunnewell, E. B. Bigelow, and B. E. Cotting. They also issued the following appeal, and sought subscriptions by personal application.

The accompanying sketch sets forth the past history and present needs and claims of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The income of the American Academy is derived from two sources : Assessments on its members, \$1,900 ; and interest of General Fund, \$1,200 ; making a total of about \$3,100. The Academy also administers the Rumford Fund, which, however, is strictly limited by the terms of the trust. After paying \$2,250 for rent, books, and salary of Assistant Librarian, there remain but \$850 a year for publishing the Proceedings and Memoirs, a sum barely sufficient to pay for a portion of the ordinary printing, leaving no provision for engravings, or for publishing the more costly Memoirs. This lack will be appreciated when it is brought to mind that the usefulness and distinction of such a Society depend almost entirely on its power of publishing important papers promptly and with proper illustrations.

In honor of its hundredth Anniversary, the Fellows of the Academy hope to raise the sum of \$50,000 as a permanent Publication Fund, the income to be applied to publishing the transactions of the Society.

Contributions are respectfully solicited, and may be sent to

THEODORE LYMAN, *Treasurer*,

191 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, BOSTON.

26 December, 1879.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, which was chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the fourth day of May, 1780, proposes to celebrate its Centennial Anniversary, in the ensuing month of May, 1880.

This is the oldest institution of the kind in America, excepting the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia. That was initiated by Franklin and others, before the beginning of the war for independence ; this was inaugurated before the close of that war. The preamble to the charter sets forth, that, —

*“As the arts and sciences are the foundation and support of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce ; as they are necessary to the wealth, peace, independence, and happiness of a people ; essentially promote the honor and dignity of the government which patronizes them ; and as they are most effectually cultivated and diffused through a State by the forming and incorporating of men of genius and learning into public Societies :”*

For these beneficial purposes the Academy was formed.

The list of incorporated members, recited in alphabetical order, includes the honored names of Adams (Samuel and John), Bowdoin, Chauncy, Cushing, Dalton, Dana, Gardner, Hancock, Holyoke, Jackson, Lincoln, Lowell, Oliver, Paine, Phillips, Pickering, Sewall, Sullivan, Warren, Wigglesworth, Willard and Winthrop. Governor Bowdoin was the first President, and his successors were: John Adams, Edward Augustus Holyoke, John Quincy Adams, Nathaniel Bowditch, James Jackson, John Pickering, Jacob Bigelow, Asa Gray, and Charles Francis Adams.

The Academy had an honorable origin, and has sustained, and still holds, an honored position among the learned Societies of the world. It is favorably known among its peers, if less known in the city and community in which its quiet operations have been carried on. It has promoted investigation ; it has published at its own expense, out of scanty means, nearly thirty volumes of Memoirs and Proceedings ; and most of its publications are original contributions to Science in the broadest sense, and to the liberal and useful Arts. Increasing its activity with the increase of scientific men and earnest students in this vicinity, its published results have become more and more numerous as well as more valuable ; and for several years past it has brought out a yearly volume of researches which it is thought would be creditable to any of the Royal Societies and Imperial Academies of Europe. The influence of the Academy upon the progress of science would have more prominently appeared if its pecuniary means were at all proportioned to the scientific activity it has incited. For lack of means, many important researches here originated are published elsewhere, or remain unpublished, or are shorn of needful illustration.

The Academy is also the administrator of a responsible trust, founded by Count Rumford, for the advancement of the knowledge of light and heat and of their practical applications. Moreover, the Academy has slowly accumulated a library of special richness in the departments of physics, chemistry, technology and mathematics, and in the transactions of the learned societies with which it corresponds ; and it has no place of its own in which to preserve and use it.

Upon attaining what may be called its majority, the Academy will make an effort to obtain a modest independent establishment. It has formed its character ; it has earned a good name. It wants a local habitation, a house of its own, where its meetings can be held and its archives and library preserved and conveniently used. Even more, it wants a fund for the publication of its Memoirs and Proceedings. The Academy is supported mainly by assessments upon its Resident Fellows, which sometimes press heavily upon those to whom the institution is most helpful and whose labors may be expected to add most to its renown. To the publication of the results of the self-denying labors of the men whose minds it stimulates, and whose success it crowns and secures by bringing them before the scientific world, the Academy is indebted for its reputation ; and it is only by such publication that its character can be maintained and extended.

The learned Societies of other countries are endowed or supported by the State, upon reasons which are suggested by the preamble to the charter of our Academy, above recited. Such duties in this country devolve upon the community as individuals. The Fellows of the Academy will do all they can. But if they are right in their opinion that the institution they represent has contributed to the intellectual character and the material prosperity of the city of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, during the century now closing, they may hopefully solicit the aid which is essential to greater usefulness in the future.

ROBERT C. WINTHROP,		} <i>Centennial Committee.</i>
JOHN AMORY LOWELL,	ASA GRAY,	
NATHANIEL THAYER,	WILLIAM B. ROGERS,	
B. E. COTTING,	H. H. HUNNEWELL,	
J. INGERSOLL BOWDITCH,	JOSIAH P. COOKE, JR.,	
ALEXANDER AGASSIZ,	THEODORE LYMAN,	
ROBERT AMORY,	EDWARD ATKINSON,	

The sum of \$35,585 was given by the following persons:—

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS . . . . .	\$5,000	ALEXANDER AGASSIZ . . . . .	\$5,000
J. INGERSOLL BOWDITCH (IN MEMORIAM N. B.)	5,000	H. H. HUNNEWELL . . . . .	5,000
THEODORE LYMAN . . . . .	1,500	B. E. COTTING . . . . .	1,000
MRS. E. F. BIGELOW (IN MEMORIAM E. B. B.)	1,000	H. P. KIDDER . . . . .	1,000
JOHN L. GARDNER . . . . .	1,000	GEORGE C. RICHARDSON . . . . .	1,000
JOHN A. LOWELL . . . . .	1,000	J. P. COOKE . . . . .	500
ALEXANDER G. BELL . . . . .	500	H. W. WILLIAMS . . . . .	500
"S" . . . . .	500	ROBERT C. WINTHROP . . . . .	500
CHARLES E. WARE . . . . .	500	S. P. RUGGLES . . . . .	500
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GEORGE HIGGINSON . . . . .	300	DR. R. W. HOOPER . . . . .	250
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G. R. MINOT (IN MEMORIAM G. R. M.) . . . . .	100	E. D. LEAVITT, JR. . . . .	100
H. F. MILLS . . . . .	100	SAMUEL ELIOT . . . . .	100

JOHN DEAN . . . . .	\$100	MRS. THOMAS COLE, SALEM (IN MEMORIAM	
T. S. HUNT . . . . .	100	THOMAS COLE) . . . . .	\$100
EZRA ABBOT . . . . .	50	H. C. LODGE . . . . .	50
MRS. J. E. LODGE . . . . .	50	DR. ROBERT AMORY . . . . .	25
S. H. SCUDDER . . . . .	20	A MEMBER . . . . .	10
CHARLES R. CROSS . . . . .	10	J. J. PUTNAM . . . . .	10
HENRY MITCHELL . . . . .	10		